

REMARKS

A non-final Office Action was mailed on January 16, 2009. Applicants timely filed an Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action on July 16, 2009, together with a Petition for a three-month extension of time.

As reported in the Office Action of January 16, independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,061,443 to Black et al. ("Black"), as extrinsically evident from *Mechanical Engineering Design*, page 969, by Shigley et al. ("Shigley"). The Amendment of July 16, 2009 enclosed a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 by co-inventor Marcos Giovanni Dropa de Bortoli, supplying additional data regarding both the suction valve claimed according to the present invention and the suction valve disclosed by Black, and Shigley. The Declaration presented the results of several finite element analyses illustrating modeled stress concentrations for a design according to the claimed invention and a design according to Black. However, these results were presented in figures employing a color scale that does not reproduce clearly in grey scale.


Accordingly, Applicants now file this Supplemental Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action together with a corrected Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132. The corrected Declaration presents the results directly in grey scale, and makes several other corrections addressed to formalities.

Reconsideration of the application in view both of the Response of July 16 and this supplemental Response is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit same. If the Examiner believes there are any remaining issues which can be resolved by a Supplemental Amendment or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. Bean
Registration No.: 44,528
DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 770
Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008-0770
(212) 527-7700
(212) 527-7701 (Fax)
Attorney For Applicants